

HOUSE RESOLUTION 50
By Stanley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Lieutenant Mike Pohl of the Germantown Fire Department, Knights of Columbus Firefighter of the Year.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal concerns to ensure our individual and collective safety, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition through service as firefighters, and Lieutenant Mike Pohl is one such venerable hero; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Pohl was recently named the Knights of Columbus Firefighter of the Year, a most fitting honor in light of his unsurpassed devotion to duty and dedication to his fellow man; and

WHEREAS, nominated for the award by his peers, Lieutenant Pohl won the award as a result of his dedication and service to his department, professional accomplishments, abilities, attitude, and commitment to doing his best, among other laudable qualifications cited by his fellow firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the son of Bud and the late Joan Pohl, Mike Pohl ,joined the Germantown Fire Department as a reserve firefighter in November 1981, was hired as a part-time firefighter in 1983, and became a full-time firefighter for the department in July of 1984; and

WHEREAS, during his meritorious tenure with the Germantown Fire Department, Lieutenant Pohl has worked diligently to develop his life-saving skills, earning numerous state certifications including Firefighter I, Firefighter II, Fire Apparatus Operator, Fire Instructor, and Fire Officer; he is also a Tennessee Licensed EMT and rescue specialist with certifications in confined-space rescue, rope rescue, and swift water rescue; and

WHEREAS, a courageous firefighter, he serves as an officer on the A Shift on Germantown's 100-foot high aerial platform truck company, and he has worked tirelessly to facilitate the successful use of the truck by mentoring and leading fellow firefighters; and

WHEREAS, having completed a rigorous testing process with his dog, Tan, Lieutenant Pohl is also a canine search specialist with Tennessee Task Force-1, an elite Federal Urban Search and Rescue Task Force that responds to natural and man-made disasters; following the Space Shuttle Columbia loss in 2003, Lieutenant Pohl was deployed for four weeks to lead a debris recovery team at the site; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his dedication, Lieutenant Pohl has earned the respect, admiration, and trust of all those fortunate enough to know him; Fire Chief Dennis Wolfe said that Lieutenant Pohl "is a fine example of what makes the Germantown Fire Department a great department"; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Tennessee enjoy a wonderful quality of life, and we owe much to the brave men and women who bravely fight fires and defend our homes and our workplaces against destruction by fire; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee's more than 30,000 firefighters in 670 full-time and volunteer departments, who are the first called to save lives and treat the injured during catastrophic events, have too often been taken for granted in the past, and it is with delight that the members of this General Assembly celebrate awards such as the one earned by Lieutenant Pohl; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to this exemplary citizen who has given unselfishly of himself, his time, and his talents to ensure the public safety; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Mike Pohl has performed his duties with utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism, and his service can only be categorized as outstanding; he deserves proper recognition for heroism both in the Germantown Fire Department and in society today; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Lieutenant Mike Pohl, a most courageous and able firefighter, of the Germantown Fire Department for his recognition as the Knights of Columbus Firefighter of the Year, offer our

thanks for a difficult job well done, commend his meritorious service to his community and the state of Tennessee, and wish him much success and safety in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.